

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

## Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

### February, 2002

*This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Third Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.*

### Residents of Third Middlesex Representative District

#### **Treatment Admissions:**

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.5% (461) reside in the Third Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (87) of Third Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 75.8% of admissions from the Third Middlesex Representative District were male and 24.1% were female.
- Over 59.5% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 81.9% of admissions were white non-Latino, 5.8% were black non-Latino, 7.1% were Latino, 1.7% were Asian and 3.3% were other racial categories.
- 68.1% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 15% were married, and 12.4% reported not to be married now.
- 26.4% of admissions had less than high school education, 49.6% completed high school, and 23.9% had more than high school education.
- 38.9% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 11.9% of those admitted were homeless.
- 9.1% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

#### **Substances Used in Past Year:**

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Third Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

<b>Table 1</b> <b>Annual Admissions by Substance Used</b> <b>FY 1995 – FY 2001</b>							
<b>Third Middlesex Representative District</b>							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
<b>FY '95</b>	347	296	89	75	49	61	40
<b>FY '96</b>	318	280	122	62	42	42	21
<b>FY '97</b>	319	267	110	65	36	50	30
<b>FY '98</b>	352	284	106	68	30	68	48
<b>FY '99</b>	450	329	134	100	51	94	53
<b>FY '00</b>	559	418	187	123	90	174	119
<b>FY '01</b>	461	308	123	96	62	143	102

- Since FY 1997, residents of Third Middlesex Representative District reported an increase across all the drug categories, with a notable peak in FY 2000.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol use increased by 15%, marijuana by 11%, cocaine by 47%, crack by 72%, and heroin use by 134%.

**Primary Substance of Use:**

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Third Middlesex Representative District.

<b>Table 2</b> <b>Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001</b>					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	55.4%	30.7%	5.3%	3.5%	0.7%
State	46.4%	35.9%	6.5%	3.8%	3.4%

- While cocaine as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, alcohol as a primary drug was higher, and, heroin, marijuana, and crack was lower within your District.